

that it has to borrow for long-term items.

My wife and I had to borrow for our house. It is called a mortgage. Over 20 years. We have to borrow for the car, 4 to 5 years of financing. We have to borrow for our children's tuition, because we understand that that is what is going to pay back greater dividends in the years to come.

So that is what my balanced budget amendment to the Constitution would do. It would recognize that borrowing and permit it to continue. You cannot go home and say that I supported a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution that is just like every State, every family, and every business has to do, because every State, every family and every business could not operate if they had to operate under the terms of the balanced budget amendments that this House will be voting on.

If you are interested in supporting my proposal, my substitute, I would urge you to cosponsor my balanced budget amendment, which was dropped in the hopper today, which has been introduced, which already has 19 cosponsors and which permits and which requires a balanced budget but also permits our Federal Government to do what every State government and city is permitted to do, and that is to borrow for physical infrastructure and to spread that out over the cost of the life of that asset.

Why should you consider the same dollar that goes for pencils for the Federal courthouse to be the same dollar that is spent for a highly of highway? We all know the mile of highway has a much greater life FTE. And yet that would be precluded. That would be ruled out. That would be greatly threatened by the balanced budget amendment this House will be voting on.

So if you want to balance the budget in the same way the family does, the State does, the business does, then you ought to be supporting my proposal, my amendment to the Constitution which was in the hopper today.

We will be talking a lot more on this, Mr. Speaker, I am very confident of that, but I would urge Members to look closely and to recognize that there is a very significant difference between the way the States operate, the way businesses operate, the way families operate, and the way this budget would have the Federal Government operate.

#### PRESIDENT CORRECTLY PLACES NATION'S EDUCATION SYSTEM AT THE TOP OF OUR PRIORITY LIST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union address last night President Clinton announced an ambitious plan to strengthen our Nation's education system and in so doing right-

ly placed the issue of educating our children at the top of the Nation's most important priorities.

The President's plan spans across the entire spectrum of education. He had 10 points. For the youngest children, he called for an expansion of Head Start; for elementary schoolchildren, a program to ensure that they can read independently by the third grade; for our high school students innovative incentive programs to encourage them to obtain at least 2 years of college; and for parents and students alike, struggling to meet the runaway costs of college, a variety of tax breaks and adjustments to existing loan programs that will make everyday life a little bit easier.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, when the President sent his budget to Congress, the Republicans responded by offering the largest education cuts in history. To demonstrate the seriousness of their opposition to the President's education agenda, they then proceeded to shut down the Federal Government two times while calling for the abolition of the Department of Education.

Their attacks on the education system continued throughout the election cycle, with GOP leaders, most notably Bob Dole, picking fights with the teachers unions.

In announcing his education plan last night, the President rightly called for Republicans to leave their partisan agenda at the classroom door. It is my hope that the Republicans will accept the President's invitation and join congressional Democrats in our efforts to provide quality, affordable education to every American.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that we will be dealing with these education issues for a long time, and certainly dealing with them in the next few weeks and the next few months, but I think that the President's call that we should put our partisan differences at the classroom door was really crucial. Education is the most important issue facing this Nation and the President's 10-point plan really is a significant beginning to solving the problem of making sure that we provide an adequate education system for every American.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FARR of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CONGRESSMAN FRANK TEJEDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from California [Mr. BECERRA] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, we have taken out this special order of an hour

for the purpose of trying in the short time that we have to try to commemorate the life of a friend, of a colleague, of a great American hero, Frank Tejeda, who passed away but a few days ago in his home in Texas shortly after having been sworn in to the 105th Congress.

Without further remarks on my part at this stage, I do want to yield time to someone who was a great friend of Mr. Tejeda, and I want to acknowledge that Mr. Tejeda's family is here with us today, but I think it is most fitting that the individual who knew him best, who would sit right back there every day of a vote with Frank and laugh and do work and do the business of this country with him should best have the opportunity to go first in making remarks about our great friend.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. SOLOMON ORTIZ.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the gentleman for asking for this special order today in memory of a great American and a great friend.

Mr. Speaker, I was one of those fortunate Members of Congress who was able to visit with Frank about 3 weeks before he died and, as we all know, Frank loved his children. And even before Frank was diagnosed with this cancer, he was telling me about the heavy schedule and how important it was for him to attend some of the soccer games that his boy, Frankie, played. He said this is one of the things I miss the most, being with my family.

When I visited with Frank this last time again, we talked about the family and about the marine that he was, how he loved the military. But at this moment we are very fortunate to have Frank's mother with us in the gallery, Mrs. Tejeda, Frank's sister, and members of his family, as they were recognized last night during the President's State of the Union Message.

For 4 years Frank and I sat together in that same corner listening to the State of the Union Message and looking forward to seeing what was in that message that we could dissect and take back to our district and tell people how we would be able to change their lives, and impact on their lives something on the positive side.

Frank was a very religious individual. This last year I would ask Frank to go out with me to attend certain functions, and Frank would say, I am sorry, I cannot go with you because this is my prayer time. I have to go to my home and spend time talking to my God and reading my Bible.

Frank was also kind and forceful and generous and committed to those he served. After Frank fought for his country, he fought very hard for veterans, farmers, and Hispanics in Texas and in Washington. Frank was a wonderful person who died far too soon, too young. He taught us all how to be better people and he set an example for all of us to live by. Frank had a quiet